[redacted]

Executive Registry
11-6593

27 JUL 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
Deputy Director (Intelligence)
Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Planning Group for Rapid Reporting System

1. This memorandum reports actions taken and progress made by an Agency Planning Group established by the Deputy Directors. It also contains recommendations for your approval. Such recommendations are contained in paragraph 8 below.

BACKGROUND

2. In November 1958 a Planning Group was formed at your direction to develop proposals for a mechanically integrated system which will increase materially the speed and effectiveness of our intelligence transmissions. The Planning Group, comprised of representatives from all major components having a direct interest in this problem, first conducted a series of briefings on fifteen major topics (which were recorded in written summaries) to provide members with a better understanding of the principal matters with which they were expected to deal. Then a special team was designated to develop a proposed system, employing modern mechanical techniques, to improve and accelerate the flow of intelligence information from field collectors to using analysts.

25X1A [redacted] REPORTING SYSTEM

25X1A 3. In February 1959 the [redacted] Reporting System was proposed. Under this system, field stations use Flexowriters (or similar tape-punching typewriters) to originate intelligence reports which thereafter are relayed and reproduced automatically. This speeds

transmission and also eliminates manual retyping. Original tapes are mechanically encrypted, transmitted to Headquarters by unaccompanied pouch (or high-speed communications equipment when available), and mechanically decrypted and typed. Headquarters processing is greatly speeded up by combining steps and by having separate processing actions proceed simultaneously. Then as a final feature of the system, analysts are required to complete abbreviated "Initial Reaction Sheets" on reports they receive. Organized tabulations of these reaction sheets can be used to tighten dissemination procedures, perfect the use of the Intelligence Subject Code, and eliminate or reduce marginal reporting.

25X1A 4. On 27 February the Planning Group reported to the Deputy Directors that the [redacted] proposal holds high promise of providing a rapid reporting system for the Agency and might well provide the basis for an improved system encompassing other members of the intelligence community. However, it was recognized that a number of technical and procedural problems had to be resolved before any final judgment could be made. Accordingly, the Group recommended that a pilot model of the [redacted] system be established [redacted] so an actual test of its feasibility could be conducted while further study was being given to technical and procedural problems. This was approved and the test began 25 March.

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RESULTS OF ZRJET TEST [redacted]

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25X1A 5. Between 25 March and 30 June, 118 [redacted] reports were sent from [redacted] to Headquarters. Average transmission time (from typing in [redacted] to automatic retyping at Headquarters) was 4.9 days. Total time elapsed between typing in [redacted] and receipt by DDI analysts averaged 7.2 days for those reports disseminated.

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25X1A To date, [redacted] test material has been of fairly low priority and quality. Hence no effort has been made to "force" the system; it has been allowed to function at a normal pace. However, it is clear that still more time savings are possible, particularly in transmission from [redacted] to Washington. Even so, the results attained are most encouraging. They stand in sharp contrast to the several weeks normally required to transmit and process CS reports (other than cables) from [redacted]

25X1A Organized tabulations have been made of Initial Reaction Sheets from DDI analysts who received [redacted] reports, and these have been distributed. However, it is too early to assess their full value.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS RE ZRJET SYSTEM

6. It is clear from results of the [redacted] test that the [redacted] system is feasible. From a technical point of view, the system works well and can be made to work even better. The results we hoped for have been attained or clearly could be attained. 25X1A 25X1A

PROBLEMS REMAINING

7. At the same time, however, problems and questions persist which must be resolved before the Planning Group can recommend expanding the system to most stations. These lie principally in the following areas:

a. Equipment

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There are available in the Agency surplus models of two kinds of automatic typewriters which have been considered for the [redacted] system--Flexowriters and M-19 Teletype machines. New models of these machines cost $2-3,000 per unit. So far, only Flexowriters (of which sixteen are available) have been used in the [redacted] test, but it is planned to try the M-19 also. The latter will become surplus in fairly substantial numbers as Communications gradually replaces them throughout the world with higher speed Teletype equipment. However, both the M-19 and the Flexowriter have distinct limitations for our purposes--limitations of speed, security, cost, noise, and other factors. In addition, new equipment now under commercial development will make these and other similar machines completely obsolete in about two years. We therefore believe it unwise to propose the purchase of any significant number of automatic typewriters now being marketed to support a large expansion of the [redacted] system. Instead, a moderate extension of the system, using available equipment, seems the proper course to pursue until it becomes clear just what machine ought to be acquired for long-term use. This interim period (of about two years) should be used to further refine procedural aspects of the system and to explore technical developments such as photo encryption which can improve or supplement the [redacted] system for intelligence transmissions.

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Our concept of the automatic typewriter needed for long-term use in the [redacted] system is a tape-producing machine which

will serve a secretary equally well for normal typing and for input into CIA's future communications system with its enormous capacity for transmissions. To obtain such a typewriter, which will also meet our security requirements, we propose to form a small task force of individuals from the components concerned to develop the specifications for the machine and then shop for it among the various commercial suppliers.

b. Security

Tape-producing typewriters present a potential security threat because of power line and radiation signals which emanate during operation. Effective counter-measures have been developed
25X1A for the M-19 and for the Flexowriter used in the [redacted] program. And machines now under commercial development can have such protective features included in their basic design. However, the machines must thereafter be protected continually against tampering. This requires their being housed in secure areas and treated with considerable precaution; and only cleared U. S. personnel
25X1A can be allowed to service and repair them. Both these latter controls will be important factors in considering extension of the [redacted] system to stations where space and maintenance problems exist.

c. Cost Analysis

Experience to date is insufficient to compute equipment and personnel costs associated with any large-scale adoption
25X1A of the [redacted] system. The Planning Group believes that more experience in the operational development of the system is needed before this can be done effectively. For such a development phase, we believe the necessary equipment is already on hand and personnel requirements will be very slight.

RECOMMENDATIONS

25X1A 8. Having established, in our judgment, the feasibility of the [redacted] system, the Planning Group recommends:

a. The system undergo a period of operational development sufficient to permit valid determinations and recommendations to be made as to its long-term usefulness and application.

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b. The [redacted]est link at [redacted] be continued on a development basis and additional links established at [redacted] and [redacted] using Flexowriter facilities available or planned for those stations under the Teletape communicating program. 25X1A 25X1A 25X1A

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c. M-19 Teletype machines be used as they become surplus, to establish developmental [redacted] links at additional stations.

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d. Headquarters components whose participation is required in the development of the [redacted] system be instructed to continue such participation.

e. The Planning Group be required to submit a report of progress on or about 31 December 1959.

25X1A [redacted]

Chairman, Planning Group

The recommendations made in paragraph 8 are approved.

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[redacted]

Deputy Director (Plans)

30 JUL 1959
Date

25X1A [redacted]

Acting Deputy Director (Intelligence)

4 Aug '59.
Date

25X1A [redacted]

Acting Deputy Director (Support)

7 aug 59
Date

SUBJECT: Planning Group for Rapid Reporting System

Distribution:
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OTR/PPS/ [redacted] (23 Jul 59)

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Remarks: Here's the recent memo to the Deputy Director & also the original of 27 Feb. Thanks very much.

File
Cen. Planning

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